

April 25, 2014

# Weekly Views

Westville Correctional Facility Superintendent Mark Levenhagen presented a check for almost \$14,000 to the Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault (INCASA) during their 2014 Conference to End Sexual Violence. The money was raised through offender programs and fundraisers from 15 IDOC facilities across the state.

The Branchville Correctional Facility, through a partnership with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), planted approximately 6,000 trees on the grounds of the facility. Earlier in the year, Branchville underwent an extensive energy upgrade, which included new bio-mass

boilers to provide heat for the facility's dormitories. The new planted Red, White and Black Oak trees will ensure that the facility is able to maintain a sufficient fuel supply for the boilers. DNR supplied the trees and a tree planter, while Branchville supplied the offender labor to plant the trees.

A staff member and four students from Camp Summit Boot Camp lent a hand at the Kingsford Heights Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Fish Fry in LaPorte County. The work included assisting the firemen with cleaning, set-up and tear-down of the dining room facilities. The fire department hosted the Fish Fry as part of their annual fundraising activities to purchase equipment for the firehouse.

Madison Correctional Facility's Montgomery Beauty School participated in the first annual "Share Your Passion, Follow Your Dreams" hair show. Former graduates, who have been released, returned to Madison to tell their success stories and give demonstrations. Current students presented a runway show featuring hairstyles that highlighted their skills as well as their style.

Miami Correctional Facility PLUS offenders helped deliver more than \$25,000 worth of groceries from Aldis and Kroger during a fundraising sale to benefit The Fuller Center for Housing of Gary. The sale kicked off a month ago, encouraging offenders to buy food to "Help Rebuild a Community". All of the proceeds will go toward this project.

Rockville Correctional Facility (RCF) received 80 bags of donated clothing from the Memorial Presbyterian Church of Rockville. In addition to the clothing, the church also presented RCF with a check for \$150 to purchase larger clothing or shoes that might be needed. Any clothing not suitable for the needs of the offenders leaving RCF will be donated to the Parke County Food Pantry. The church indicates that the goal is to make the clothing drive an annual spring event.

The Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) welcomed a group of international visitors from the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. The group included seven law enforcement officials and prosecutors from multiple European countries who toured IWP to learn about "Cooperative Efforts in Combating International Crime." All were astounded with the operation of the prison and many positive comments were made about the facility.

PEN Products staff member Mike Jones received the National Correctional Industries Association (NCIA) Central Region Staff Award in recognition for his development and implementation of the PEN Materials Management Group. Deputy Commissioner James Basinger, PEN Director Mike Herron and attending PEN staff accepted the award on his behalf at the 2014 NCIA training conference in New Orleans.

Congratulations are in order for Correctional Officer Joseph Browning and Sergeant Michael Ellis who have both been promoted to correctional caseworkers for Putnamville Correctional Facility. As the transition into re-entry begins, these two will be integral parts of the unit team and are well needed!

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility Superintendent Linda Commons announced that Youth Development Specialists Bridgette Chatot and Steven Daniel were promoted to Psychiatric Social Services Specialists. Superintendent Commons stated, "These individuals will be a great addition to our treatment staff."

It is almost the end of another college semester, and Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) has been busy with students from local universities. 89 students and instructors from five criminology classes were given tours of WCC this spring. In addition, 13 students are completing over 1000 hours of practical internships assisting classification and nursing staff.

The Kairos Prison Ministry began a four-day program at the Pendleton Correctional Facility that involves participation by 36 offenders and 48 Kairos volunteers. This represents the 14<sup>th</sup> time this program has been conducted at Pendleton. Kairos is an international Christian faith-based ministry that addresses the spiritual needs of offenders and their families.

Prison Fellowship Ministries provide a special concert by inviting the group "HIS Promise" to perform during their service at the Correctional Industrial Facility. The ensemble, made up of H.D. Hollinseed, Robbie Shuck and Dr. Baranosky sang several songs, provided an inspirational sermon and a few laughs for the offenders. Dr. Baranosky, a concert pianist who is originally from Russia, entertained the offenders with several exceptional piano pieces.

Class was in session at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility! House Enrolled Act 1006 was the subject with Jack Hendrix, IDOC Classification Director, and Randy Short, Director of Offender Placement, instructing multiple facility and parole staff during a regional training session. Directors Hendrix and Short spoke about the changes in how new sentences will be calculated along with the six levels of felonies to factor in.

Classification Departments will be working with three sentence structures when the law takes effect July 1.